

March 2, 2020 Minutes – NH Hospital Association, Concord NH
Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician Work Group

Attendees – John Genovese (NH BOP), Gary Merchant (NHBOP), Tina Genovese, Robert Stout (NHPA), Janet Silvester (ASHP), Lindsey Fontaine (Wal-Mart), Robert Theriault Jr. (WDH), Amanda Chuk (D-H), Ryan Burke (PTCB), Julie Hegle (VTHiTech), Jessica Langley (NHA), Brett Conroy (Hannaford)

Via phone: Allie Jo Simpson (NASPA), Ann Burns (APhA), Melissa Wilson (Cheshire), Kaitlyn Simoneau (Shaw/Osco), Becky Thornburg (TRC), Sandye Chabot (TRC), Kristin White (TRC), Keith Marston (TRC), and Jan Keresztes (Talent First)

This was the sixth meeting of a board of pharmacy work group created to develop rules related to a new category of licensure, Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician or LAPT. The group met from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM with several attending via tele-conference.

- 1) Meeting opened at 1:08 PM by the Chair (John Genovese) with introductions.
- 2) Motion made by Julie Hegle, second by Janet Silvester to approve the January minutes with two spelling corrections. Motion was approved with unanimous consent.
- 3) Group confirmed support for the following requirements for licensure:
 - a) Minimum age of 21
 - b) High school diploma or GED
 - c) 2,000 worked hours as a Certified Pharmacy Technician within 3 years
 - d) Passing a the NABP MJPE with same score as a pharmacy student
- 4) John Genovese provided an update from the board of pharmacy February 19 meeting. From the meeting, the board wants to include in the scope of practice the following:
 - a) Include a definition for clinical judgement
 - b) Include devices with medications regarding patient counseling
 - c) Taking medication history ok, however, should not be allowed to perform a full medication reconciliation

The group discussed a definition of clinical judgement however, the group believes the term is a common term which does not require a definition.

The group supports adding devices to patient counseling however, group consensus was an LAPT could explain to a patient how to use a device (the task) but not how to interpret results from use of the device (clinical use).

The group supports allowing a LAPT taking a medication history and not allowing an LAPT

to perform a full medication reconciliation.

- 5) Janet Silvester presented a high-level crosswalk between the ASHP/ACPE accreditation standards for entry level and advanced level pharmacy technician training and those used by the military training program. See attachment A for crosswalk comparison.
- 6) Broad knowledge base (academics) vs. knowledge of specific skills (certification)

The group had a long and robust discussion of the merits to require a broad base of knowledge on certain subjects such as anatomy and physiology, advanced pharmaceutical calculations, and medical terminology vs. knowledge in specific areas such as product verification, sterile and non-sterile compounding, inventory management, and dispensing.

Group reached general consensus that an LAPT, like a pharmacy student, should have a broad base of knowledge so they may practice in any pharmacy setting and that an employer may augment additional knowledge or certification in specific subjects such as sterile compounding and medication history.

For patient safety and to appropriately assist and support a pharmacist, an LAPT needs to understand both the why and the what of a task, not just accurately performing the task. This requires a broad base of knowledge supplemented with knowledge in specific areas of pharmacy practice.

- 7) Pathway to licensure

The group initially discussed having two pathways to licensure. One for existing certified pharmacy technicians with 2,000 hours of work (bridging pathway) and one for future certified pharmacy technicians. After a lengthy discussion, consensus was reached to have a single pathway for both existing and future certified pharmacy technicians.

Jessica Langley shared a slide that framed a single pathway that augments certification with advanced knowledge base prior to taking both a knowledge exam and a law exam as NABP MJPE.

- 8) Knowledge base exam

Group discussed various areas of broad knowledge that should be required by an LAPT and options for an individual to obtain that knowledge. An option discussed was to require an individual to complete the additional 200 hours for advanced pharmacy technician level in an ASHP/ACPE accredited program. Keith Marston mentioned that TRC is currently working to separate the advanced portion of ASHP/ACPE accredited program from the entry level which may be a viable option. Critical going forward is identifying opportunities for individuals to obtain the knowledge necessary to pass a knowledge exam and to pass a law exam. The focus needs to be obtaining the knowledge necessary to pass the exam,

not how an individual obtained the knowledge.

9) Licensure renewal requirements

- a) Same hours of CE as required for pharmacists
- b) Maintain pharmacy technician certification with PTCB or NHA

10) Next meeting

- a) Identify advanced knowledge areas needed to become an LAPT
- b) Complete the pathway for licensure
- c) Identify available resources needed to create and maintain both the knowledge and law examinations